

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/05/12 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000500060066-9

COMOR-D-56/7

3 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Positional Accuracy for the  
Intelligence Target List

1. The COMOR will recall that the NRO has requested a positional accuracy [redacted] NRO 25X1  
[redacted] COMOR is also aware of the difficulties in establishing accurate coordinates [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] The Chairman had forwarded a working paper to COMOR [redacted] which proposed that the DIA initiate studies with AMS and ACIC to improve positional accuracy. At the 27 June meeting, [redacted] read to the members a report from the DIA on this subject. It is attached for the consideration of the COMOR at its next meeting on 11 July. It is proposed that COMOR approve this memorandum to be transmitted to the NRO for its guidance in connection with programming problems in the future.

2. For the convenience of the members, [redacted] 25X1  
memorandum is prepared so that it need be classified only SECRET provided this covering memorandum is removed.

3. Previously a document by this number was attached but inadvertently the attachment was labeled TOP SECRET. Please destroy COMOR-D-56/7 dated 28 June. 25X1

James Q. Reber

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:

Subject paper (SECRET Only)

Copies 2, 3 State TCO  
4 DIA [redacted]  
5, 6, 7, 8 DIA TCO  
9 OACSI TCO  
10, 11 ONI TCO  
12, 15 AFNIN TCO  
16, 17 NSA TCO  
18, 19 NRO TCO

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

COMOR-D-56/7

Positional Accuracy for the Intelligence Target List

25X1      1.      The requirement for [redacted] accuracy for coordinate positions related to the World Geodetic System (W. G. S. ) for all COMOR intelligence targets does not appear to be a reasonable requirement. The best position accuracy that can be provided for targets at present is something beyond 300 feet. However, for many of the targets the current capability for positioning provides errors in excess of 1,000 feet. At present probably 70 per cent are positioned to within 1,000 feet and 30 per cent within 500 feet. (All of these are at 90 per cent probability.)

2.      It is expected that when the present geodetic control studies are completed, it will be possible to position any target to within 750 feet. It also would be possible in due course to improve positioning of specific targets approaching this degree of accuracy, depending upon the quality of the materials and the distance between the target and identifiable control points tied to the World Geodetic System. Even with the prospects over the next few years, it is unlikely that features on the ground not now positioned from maps and conventional surveys of high accuracy could be positioned in maps or charts to an accuracy much greater than 450 feet (W. G. S. ).

3.      The most critical targets in the COMOR list have been recently positioned using the best data currently available. The results of this positioning effort are continuously applied to the 1:200,000 target chart series and are incorporated into the Air Intelligence File Data Tapes. These should provide the best positions feasible with materials and studies completed to date. It will be possible to improve positions for some of the critical targets now known to be in error by more than 750 feet by additional geodetic-photogrammetric effort utilizing existing materials. Improvement is also feasible for many of the less critical targets which have not been given recent attention.

4.      DIA will institute with AMS and ACIC a review of the positioning problem and, based on this review, will develop a schedule for a systematic improvement of position data for the intelligence target list. This effort will be given emphasis consistent with other priority projects, but it cannot be completed by 15 August 63 as proposed. An estimate will be provided at the conclusion of the review of the problem.

5. It is assumed that the accuracy requirement  will be immediately reviewed and revised to conform with current operational requirements. This must be accomplished before any meaningful study of the positioning problem can be initiated. DIA can provide further details on accuracies of specific targets and will be available to participate in discussions leading to validation of the accuracy requirement.

25X1

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COMOR-D-56/7

Copy 1      DCI TCO for USIB/S  
20-29      Asst/Ops(NPIC)  
30      LS/PID(NPIC)  
31      TSO CIA  
32, 33      DDI TCO  
34-37      OSI TCO  
38      ORR TCO  
39      OCI TCO  
40      DDP TCO  
41      DDR TCO  
42      AD/OSA  
43      FA/OSA  
44      Intel/OSA  
45      SO/OSA  
46      SAL/OSA  
47      RB/OSA  
48-50      SA/DDR

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